

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-17 are canceled.

Support for the amendment of Claim 6 is found at page 11, last paragraph, through page 12, first paragraph. Support for the amendment of Claim 1 is found at page 3, lines

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-14 and 18-20 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicants respectfully traverse the indefiniteness rejection of Claims 6 and 15-17.

The rejection of Claims 15-17 is obviated by cancellation of these claims. Claim 6 has been amended to recite the positive step of combining the mixture of claim 1 with at least one substance to create a product. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection. Because Claim 6 is now believed to be definite, the indefiniteness rejection of Claim 7, for depending from Claim 6, is now believed to be obviated. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The anticipation and obviousness rejections of Claims 1-20 in view of Dhalgren are respectfully traversed. The rejections of Claims 15-17 are obviated by cancellation of these claims.

The Office has asserted that Dhalgren inherently contains alkoxylates other than 2-propyl-heptanol, based on, for example, the disclosure of Bahrman, that technical grade 2-propyl-heptanol contains other alkoxylates, and that Dhalgren therefore inherently anticipates the present claims. However, this reasoning is incorrect because nowhere in Dhalgren is technical grade 2-propyl heptanol described or suggested, and where 2-propyl heptanol is described, it is described as a single (i.e., pure) compound. Accordingly, the disclosure of Dhalgren describes only 2-propyl-heptanol as a starting alcohol to make alkoxylates, whereas the present claims are drawn to mixtures and compositions containing specific ratios of alkoxylates formed from 2-propyl-heptanol and additional starting alcohol(s).

Dhalgren discloses 2-propyl heptanol (see, for example, page 1, line 2, line 25; page 2, lines 26-27, Example 1, page 3, line 21). Throughout the specification, Dhalgren describes only 2-propyl heptanol. There is no mention of other starting alcohols, and technical grade 2-propyl heptanol is absent from Dhalgren. That is, nowhere in Dhalgren is technical grade 2-propyl heptanol described or suggested. The fact that Dhalgren is specifically employing one alcohol is made clear, for example at page 2, lines 26-27, which describes 2-propyl heptanol, a Guebert alcohol,” and Table 1, page 4, which describes, as a starting alcohol, only “2-propyl heptanol.” Because Dhalgren describes only 2-propyl heptanol, and not technical grade 2-propyl heptanol, the Office is overreaching in attempting combine the disclosures of Dhalgren and Bahrman. Further, because Dhalgren describes a single starting alcohol and alkoxylates arising from this single starting alcohol, there is not rational for combining the teaching of Dhalgren and Bahrman, as making a mixture of alkoxylates from a variety of starting alcohols, as found in Bahrman, would necessarily decrease the amount of alkoxylates present formed from 2-propyl heptanol, and thus, would decrease the materials credited with the superior wetting properties of Dhalgren.

In addition, Bahrman discloses isomeric mixtures of nonanols and decanols prepared from n-butanal and pentanals containing specific amounts of n-pentanal, 2-methyl butanal, and 3-methyl butanal (see column 2, lines 35 to 39). Bahrman further describes that aldehydes are obtained from mixtures containing 1-butene and 2-butene and the mixtures can be obtained in different compositions. Different compositions can be obtained by isolation from C4 cracking fractions of the pyrolysis product by extraction of 1,3-butadiene by selective solvent choice and subsequent removal of isobutene. In the alternative, 1,3-butadiene can also partly be hydrogenated in the C4 fraction (see column 2, line 60 – column

3, line 6). From this disclosure, a person of ordinary skill in the art learns that compositions containing 1-butene and 2-butene can be obtained in different ratios of isomers, depending on the method by which they are prepared. Thus, Bahrmann discloses that the mixtures of 1-butene and 2-butene are not always obtained in the same composition which further means that aldehydes and subsequent alcohols prepared from these mixtures will, by definition, have a great variety of different isomers in different amounts. Thus, 2-propyl-heptanol is not obtained in any fixed ratio to other alcohol isomers, in technical grade 2-propyl-heptanol, as opined by the Office.

Moreover, in Examples 1 to 3 of Bahrmann, mixtures of alcohols are disclosed comprising up to eight different alcohols having different carbon numbers and substitution patterns. After distillation, the mixtures comprised five different alcohols. Thus, Bahrmann does not describe or suggest the alkoxylate mixture of, for example, Claim 1.

Finally none of the cited references describes or suggests the superior result of the alkoxylate claimed mixture, as opposed to the alkoxylate of 2-propyl-heptanol alone, of having superior wetting (see Examples 4a,b – 7a,b of the present specification). For instance, Example 4a, with an alkoxylate made from 2-propyl-heptanol (not of the invention), has a wetting of 13 seconds, whereas Example 4b (a mixture of alkoxylates of the invention) has superior wetting of 12 seconds.

Withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-20 for anticipation in view of the disclosure of Gumbel, and/or obviousness in view of the disclosures of Gumbel and Bahrman. Gumbel, at Example 9, describes using 2-propyl-heptanol as a starting alcohol to react the alcohol with ethylene oxide, followed by pentene oxide. Gumbel does not describe or suggest technical grade 2-propyl-heptanol, and thus, the 2-propyl-heptanol of Gumbel is a

single (i.e., pure compound). Accordingly, Gumbel does not describe the presently claimed material.

Further, as described above, Bahrman discloses that alcohols prepared from the mixtures of starting aldehydes, will, by definition, have a great variety of different isomers in different amounts. Thus, 2-propyl-heptanol is not obtained in any fixed ratio to other alcohols, in technical grade 2-propyl-heptanol, as opined by the Office.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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